GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2636
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
COMPLAINTS AGAINST DISTRICT VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEES
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint from certain public representatives against the functioning of district vigilance and monitoring committees during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/to be taken by the Government on each such complaint?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a)to(c) Yes, Sir. Many complaints have been received from the Members of Parliament from different parts of the country, mainly from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal etc. regarding the functioning of District level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees (V&MCs). The main issues raised in these complaints are - non-convening of meetings of District level V&MCs, delay in convening meetings despite reminders, absence of District Collector from the meeting, holding the meeting of V&MC in their absence, fixing dates of the meeting without consulting M.Ps, non-supply of information about rural development programmes before fixing date of V&MC meeting, not postponing the meeting despite their request, holding meeting without sufficient notice, lack of follow up action on the decisions taken in the meeting and not providing vehicle for attending meetings or for making field visits etc. The District Authorities have also been complaining about their problems and also bringing some of those for directions of the Government of India.

The Ministry has been pursuing wide range of complaints with the State Governments and the District Administration to ensure that the meetings of these District level V&MCs are organized regularly and most of these are brought into the notice of District Authorities for immediate compliance. In most of case, such complaints are promptly attended by them. However, in some cases guidance, clarification and approvals are required from the Ministry of Rural Development and these are examined in the Ministry.

As a measure to ensure that these meetings are held regularly, the release of 2nd installment of funds for various rural development programmes have been linked with holding at least one meeting of the State and District level V&MC during a year. The Guidelines of the V&MCs have also been amended to organize Special Meetings to facilitate and ensure that during a year at least one meeting of the District level V&MC is organized.